

EASA-2619

10 Dez. 1953

Chief, EE

Attn: C

Chief of Base, Salzburg

Operational/GROOVY

GROSSBAHN -- Termination

-- "Progress Report" Attached

REF: (A) EASW-576  
(B) EASA-2263

INF: Vienna

1. The extremely lucid presentation of "The Grossbahn Problem", contained in reference A has been most gratefully received. It completely dispels a few of the doubts which recently have been gathering in our minds as to the probable outcome of this unusual disposal case.

2. We were just on the verge of pouching a Grossbahn Progress Report giving a resume of what we had done to date and recapitulating the points on which we were awaiting word from you when reference A arrived. All of the points we raise have been answered by your dispatch, with the exception of an accommodation address for CG-3 when she departs for Germany. This, however, is a separate problem and can and should be handled as such. Merely in order that the administrative side of the Grossbahn operational file might be kept up to date, and we are not adjudged lax in keeping up with our progress reporting, we would like to allow the Progress Report to stand as is and submit it as an attachment to this dispatch. We find the charting of things yet to be done, as shown in the Progress Report, helpful in keeping in mind precisely where we want to go.

3. We should, now, like to go over some of the specific points in reference A so that you will be completely informed as to what is happening here:

a. Re. paras. 1 and 2: Grossbahn certainly will not depart Austria without the final word from you. We have adapted this policy since final termination was first decided, for we could well imagine the chaos should Grossbahn arrive at a port of entry without the way being completely prepared. Secondly, as you point out in paragraph 1, there is just the remote possibility that something unforeseen of a security nature might crop up at the last moment so that the entire plan would have to be abandoned. We, too, feel (and certainly hope) that all security checks will give him a reasonably clean bill of health, but one never knows in this business.

b. C of MOB has informed us that there should be no difficulty in renewing Grossbahn's visa, using the old number, and we do plan on getting this into motion about 15 December. As we have stated in paragraph 4

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy ☐  
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒  
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

SECURITY INFORMATION

COPY

Declassified and Approved for Release  
by the Central Intelligence Agency  
Date: 2001/2005

EASA-2619

of the attached Progress Report, it will be about mid January 1954 before we can get the Grossbahn group on their way. First cause for delay was the ODURGE waiver; second cause was receipt of information that they had to move as a unit and the group would be delayed until visas were secured for the wife and son. Coupled with these two main reasons were the logistical problems connected with closing out their household and arranging for shipment of their effects to the U. S.

c. Re. para. 3, Household Goods: See paragraph 6 of attached Progress Report. We plan on seeing Grossbahn as soon as possible. If he still has no word from his Hamburg contact, we will instruct him that he is to bring in a Linz or Salzburg mover and secure an estimate immediately. We will cable as soon as we have a figure.

d. Re. para. 5, U. S. Contact Arrangements: We are indeed pleased to hear that Grossbahn will be escorted through ODURGE formalities on entry. See paragraph 4 of Progress Report attached; the Grossbahn group will move via ship rather than plane as originally planned, reason being that Grossbahn's wife simply refuses to fly. Final arrangements, then, with ODURGE should reflect this change. We will cable the ship, ETA, and point of entry when known. We presume the latter will be New York but will confirm this.

e. Re. para. 5, References: The arrangement you suggest follows right along with what we have told Grossbahn tentatively. We will expect details on the final arrangements as soon as they are confirmed. We will certainly brief Grossbahn to steer clear of applying for any sensitive positions where he might be the subject of a searching security investigation. Your point here is extremely well taken. We also will have Grossbahn prepare for us a rundown on exactly what he has done to date in regard to job hunting and what his tentative plans are for the future. We will also have him answer the other specific points you raise in paragraph 5, i. e., where he will go after arrival in New York, in which part of the country he will most likely settle, and what leads and/or commitments he might already have. He will be instructed to keep you informed after arrival (through the P. O. Box mentioned in paragraph 4b) on his success in job hunting.

f. Re. para. 6, Acknowledgment of Party Membership: It is most helpful to have this information, for as we indicated in EASA-2412, we were apprehensive lest we offer Grossbahn some unsound advice. We are still not clear on exactly what will happen when Grossbahn admits his Nazi affiliations in answering question 8 of the Application to File Petition for Naturalization which you attached to Reference A. As paragraph 7 of Reference A indicates, Grossbahn will not be taking such action until 1958 at the earliest; so we have some time to worry this matter. We presume from the wording of paragraphs 6 and 7 that on receipt of application in 1958, Grossbahn's file would be checked and the 1953 waiver discovered to explain away his being in the U. S. In any case, we certainly will instruct Grossbahn immediately that he is to answer any and all such questions truthfully and to follow out the instructions contained in paragraph 6. Regarding the Addendum to reference A, we sent SSALZ-1984 on 20 November 1953 in reply to DIR-27694. We were again in touch with [redacted] of MOB via phone today (9 December), and he will attempt to make copies of the application form and scratch sheet in

Grossbahn's file at the Munich Consulate. Failing this, we are sending him word tomorrow (10 December) to let us have the exact wording of the political and military information furnished. Needless to say, the Munich Consulate was given true information, however brief, which seems to be the basic question involved. However, in compliance with your request in the Addendum, we will cable the precise wording as soon as we have it.

4. As indicated in the foregoing, we will secure all desired information from Grossbahn and pouch it as soon as we can. We do plan on giving Grossbahn a sterile and general brief on the main points of reference A that he needs to know.

5. We wish to express our thanks once more for the fine run-down you have given us in reference A. It was indeed an eyeopener, for we had no idea of the problems you were facing—rather, we never sat down and added them up as you did—and we thought we had troubles!

9 December 1953

Att: Grossbahn Progress Report.

- 3 - EE (3 atts.)
- 3 - Vien (3 atts.)
- 1 - Salz chrono (2 atts.)
- 2 - Salz #101 (2 atts.)

285

SECURITY INFORMATION

Att. to  
EASA-2619

10 Dez. 1953

~~Chief, EE~~  
~~Attn: [ ]~~  
~~Chief of Base, Salzburg~~

Operational/GROOVY

GROSSBAHN - Progress Report for the Period  
1 October to 30 November 1953.

REF: EASA-2263

INF: Vienna

A. Synopsis. Except for agents PP-3 and EE-1, the phase-out operation is completed. We are awaiting final word on the ODURGE waiver before we complete arrangements for movement of the Grossbahn group. As plans stand at present, we expect them to depart the area during the period 15 to 31 January 1954. Grossbahn is performing a few last minute assessments for us prior to his departure.

B. Specific Action Required of Headquarters. We should like to briefly summarize the various points on which we are awaiting word from Headquarters:

1. Final ODURGE waiver (latest reference is DIR-29146, indicating that word is expected about 4 December 1953).
2. Accommodation address (mail only) for Grossbahn US contact. (EASA's 2379 and 2412).
3. Answer on Grossbahn action should question of Nazi Party membership arise after his US entry. (EASA-2412)
4. Employment references for period 1946 to 1953. (EASA-2379)
5. Decision on shipment of household effects after estimated costs are submitted by SOB. (EASA-2379)
6. Contact arrangements for CC-3 in Germany. (EASA-2580)

C. Developments.

1. Phase-over of agents. The following former Grossbahn agents were phased over to direct case officer control on dates indicated:

[ ] (REDCAP-SOB) -- 15 October 1953.

EASA-2619 AH

⌈ (REDCAP-SOB) — 7 October 1953.

⌈ (VOB) — 11 November 1953.

⌈

⌈ (VOB) —

⌈ 23 November 1953.

Still remaining to be handled are agents PP-3 (the remaining Police source in Salzburg) and EE-1 (Grossbahrn's priest friend) in Linz. We will probably assign an SOB case officer (as yet undecided) to handle PP-3 and intend to establish a loose contact with EE-1 in Linz. He appears to be a fairly valuable casual contact, as he is probably one of the most politically active Jesuits in the area. WW-1 (formerly AA-3) was dropped on 30 November 1953 for lack of initiative, lack of interest, and general unsuitability as an agent.

2. CC-3 and CC-4. CC-4 is being dropped effective 31 December 1953. She will probably secure private employment in the Salzburg area. CC-3 will be dropped at the time that Grossbahrn finally departs for the US. We hope to be able to furnish an address for her in Germany, in the event she feels she can be of use to KUBARK again. (See EASA's 2579 and 2580.)

3. Visas. Grossbahrn's visa is already secured. This was reported in EASA-1992. Application for the wife's and son's visas were made at the Munich Consulate on 13 November 1953. There should be no complications; both have passed their physical examinations, and it is only a question of time before the actual visas are issued. We will probably have to renew Grossbahrn's visa (it expires on 23 December 1953); however, MOB assures us this should present no problem.

4. Departure Date. Our secondary plan called for Grossbahrn and son to depart Austria, by air, about 15 December, with the wife following by boat about 15 March 1954. This was in order that she might close out the household and give Grossbahrn a chance to get established in a new job in the US before she joined him. On 13 November 1953 we learned that this plan was impossible, that they had to move as one family group. This, coupled with recent delays cable from Headquarters in securing the final ODURGE waiver (see most recent cable DIR-29146 on this problem) means that it will probably be somewhere about 15 to 31 January 1954 before we actually get the Grossbahrn group moving on their way to the US. We have still not made any reservations for them for surface transportation during the planned departure period due to the lack of final confirmation from Headquarters that entrance into the US is insured. When final word is received, we plan to attempt, for security reasons, to secure the reservations in Munich, possibly with the assistance of MOB. We will advise Headquarters by cable of ship, date, and port of entry, as soon as this information is available.

5. Grossbahrn Interim Assignments. We have instructed Grossbahrn that he is to perform assessments on the following persons, while he is marking time in Salzburg:

25

- a. [ ] -Polizei Kommissar with the Salzburg Police Direction.
- b. [ ] -A Socialist Landrat in Salzburg who is an extremely influential member of the Socialist Party.

6. Household Effects. Grossbahn, prior to the receipt of DIR-27255, was instructed to secure an estimate of the cost of moving his household goods via surface transportation to the US. He turned this matter over to a Hamburg shipping firm with whom he maintains good connections and as yet has not received the final answer. He did furnish them with all necessary measurements and weights. As soon as we have the answer, this information will be cabled to Headquarters.

9 December 1953

3 - EE  
3 - Vign  
1 - Salz chrono  
2 - Salz 101

RPS